

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
Task Force for Regulation of Medication Aides
Review of Public Comment Committee Meeting
October 2, 2006

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Task Force for Regulation of Medication Aides of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Lynne Cooper in Conference Room 3, Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lynne M. Cooper, Medication Aide Committee Chairperson
Woody B. Hanes, R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P., Curriculum Sub-Committee Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT:

Jay P. Douglas, RN, MSM, CSAC, Executive Director, Board of Nursing
Caroline Juran, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy
Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Board of Nursing
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, DHP

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lin Arnette, VANHA
Susan Bess, Williamspon's Pharmacy
Sherry P. Broussard, RN.C., Kindred Pharmacy Services
Cindy Eggleston, RN, Sunrise Senior Living
Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., Shenandoah University
Deborah Lloyd, RN, Dept. of Social Services, Licensing Programs
Christine A. Stacy, R.N., M.S., Adult Care Education Consultants, L.L.C.

INTERESTED PARTIES PRESENT:

Lillie Bahte, Jones & Jones, II
Catherine Cary, Richmond Apothecaries
Carter Harrison, Alzheimer's Association
Nancy Higgs, Commonwealth Assisted Living
Mable Jones, VAHA
Tana Kaefer, Richmond Apothecaries
Doris Minor, Jones & Jones
Dana Steger, VANHA
Mark Stevens, VA Office of Protection & Advocacy
Grace Turner, Innisfree Village

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Elaine Yeatts presented an overview of the proposed regulations for medication aides and a summary of the public comment period from 6/26/06 to 8/25/06. The first specific area of discussion concerned the proposed fees. Ms. Yeatts and Ms. Douglas reported that DHP is a non general fund agency, and as such, the cost related to regulating a profession must be covered by the licensing fees of that profession. The Board of Nursing (BON) must charge fees to manage the program, which include staff and Board member costs, licensing costs, and costs related to investigations and the disciplinary process. Ms. Douglas suggested that

another option the committee may consider would be to recommend to the Board to allow an annual renewal (versus biennial) for the medication aides. This would lessen the cost that the person or facility needs to pay at one time and allow an annual opportunity for the medication aide to update their address and name with the Board. Feedback from the committee and interested was favorable to an annual renewal.

Mary Ann Kirkpatrick moved to recommend an annual renewal fee of \$25 for the medication aides. The motion was seconded and passed by the committee members.

The Virginia Nurses Association suggested, in writing, that the Board consider adopting two levels of medication aides. Ms. Yeatts responded that the Board does not have statutory authority to approve different levels. The committee discussed the importance of including the insulin module as part of the curriculum for all levels of care.

There was discussion related to the myth that the medication aide curriculum would be equivalent to an LPN education. Dr. Saxby reported that LPN education programs are typically 12 to 18 months in length and have at least 400 hours of direct client care experience, and that the national exam for licensure is a five hour exam.

It was suggested that the current medication aides be “grandfathered” into the system. Ms. Yeatts reported that there was nothing in the law that allowed for “grandfathering”, but that the one year experience as a medication aide could be considered equivalent to the training requirement, but they would still need to take the competency exam (written and skills).

There was discussion about considering including LPN’s (in addition to RN’s and Pharmacists) to be the primary instructor for the medication aides. The committee discussed “grandfathering” existing LPN trainers to be allowed to be the primary instructor if they complete and pass the new train-the-trainer course. Ms. Cooper expressed concern about “grandfathering” existing LPN trainers and not allowing new LPN trainers. She suggested that the committee had three options to be considered related to LPN’s being the primary instructor:

1. Do not allow LPN’s to be the primary instructor;
2. Grandfather existing LPN trainers; and
3. Allow LPN’s to be the primary instructor.

Ms. Stacy moved to recommend to the Board that existing LPN’s be “grandfathered” and be allowed to be the primary instructor, but that new LPN’s could not be the primary instructor. The motion was defeated. Therefore, the committee will not recommend a change to the proposed regulation.

The committee also recommended to adding a post course exam to the train-the-trainer course that the trainer must pass before he/she is able to teach using the medication aide curriculum.

There was discussion about altering the curriculum and lowering the proposed training hours requirement. The committee voted to keep the hours as presented in the proposed regulations and make that recommendation to the Board.

The draft curriculum was distributed to all committee members present and will be mailed to the committee members that were not in attendance. The committee was asked to review the draft curriculum and give feedback to Dr. Saxby by October 13, 2006.

The proposed regulations will be presented to the Board on November 14, 2006.

Ms. Douglas updated the committee on the RFP testing contract process. The RFP's for testing contracts have been reviewed by a committee, and two companies will be making final presentations to Board staff and Board members in October. A recommendation will be presented to the Board at the November 14, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Douglas also announced that Brenda Krohn, RN, MSN will begin employment on October 30, 2006 as the Deputy Executive Director/Medication Aide Registry Manager.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Task Force sub-committee meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m..

Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D.
Deputy Executive Director, Education